

CHRISTMAS THANKS SENT BY SOLDIERS

"Merry Xmas and All Good Gifts." Writes One Who Received Tobacco.

"KEEP UP GOOD WORK"

"Puff Is Pound of Pleasure." Another Tells Donors to Smoke Fund.

Cheer for the soldiers of the A. E. F. in France in the form of tobacco has brought back to the donors who have faithfully supported **THIS SUN TOBACCO FUND**, cheer of another kind, a spiritual kind, found in the satisfaction of kindness done to men who needed it. This part of satisfaction cannot fail to please donors as they read the cards, eloquent of appreciation, sent to them by the soldiers.

And the men who they peened their latest cards knew that these would be received by donors close to the Christmas season. Therefore, they wrote their words fit for a Christmas card, but not a Christmas card, but a card that would be received by the donors of the tobacco fund.

"We have received the cigarettes sent through the New York Sun and they brought the Christmas spirit. We wish you a Merry Christmas and all good gifts of the New Year."

The donor who receives this card will have a souvenir of the fighting men, whose names are appended: Private W. W. Abbott, L. McLeary, Herbert J. Mattson, William Waters, A. Gariati and A. Batista.

Sophie Tucker's Christmas cards from the soldiers are dated near the day. Sergeant Richard R. Dougherty, 115th Field Artillery, writes the men of his outfit had been without smokes for six weeks, so the tobacco sent through the smoke fund was "some appreciated."

On December 1, Sergeant H. A. Lagerquist wrote to Miss Tucker: "The undersigned had the pleasure of distributing your donation of tobacco to the boys of our company and he assures you that they accepted it as a Christmas gift."

A. E. F. Will Not Forget. "We are not ready to come home yet," writes Private F. E. Sullivan to a contributor, "and what you have done for us is not going to be forgotten by the A. E. F. still over here. We thank you not only for the smokes themselves, but for the spirit of sending them to the army in general and letting them find where they will. That's the genuine Christmas spirit."

"We are marking time and just when we don't have a smoke seems a week long."

This comment on the existing situation has been made several times by thoughtful soldiers. It is easily comprehensible. Usually the writer adds, to strengthen his assertion of the soldier's present wants: "We're broke and we couldn't buy tobacco even if there was any around here we could smoke."

In the recent postcards the boys have not hesitated to make an appeal to **THIS SUN TOBACCO FUND**. "Keep up the good work," they cry. "Send us some more smokes!"

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NOTES OF THE SOCIAL WORLD

It has been decided to hold a ball in celebration of peace for the benefit of the Babies' Hospital of this city in place of the annual concert, and it will be given at Sherry's on the night of January 6. The officers of the hospital are Mrs. John Jay Knox, Mrs. Oliver G. Jennings, Mrs. Roswell Miller, Mrs. Ira Barrows, Mrs. Ernest A. Ade, Mrs. John B. Calvert, Mrs. Theron G. Strong, Mrs. W. Gosaby Loew, Mrs. McCoskey Butt, Mrs. Edward Van Ingen and Mrs. Frank B. Keesh. Tickets may be obtained of Miss Doane, 18 West Thirty-eighth street.

Mrs. George H. Bond is passing the holidays in Lenox with Mr. and Mrs. Courtland Field Bishop.

Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., will give a dinner and dance for young people this evening at her home, 666 Fifth avenue.

Miss Roberta Willard has returned to Newport after a visit here with Mrs. Ernest Iselin.

The Musicians Club of New York will give a farewell concert, reception and supper at the Ritz-Carlton on Sunday night in honor of Andre Messager and Albert Coates, distinguished French musicians. Tickets will be \$5 each, and the net proceeds will be given to destitute French musicians.

Among those interested are Mrs. Arthur Scribner, Mrs. Charles H. Ditson, Mrs. Harry Harkness Flieger, Mrs. J. Horace Harding, Mrs. Edward J. De Coppel, Mrs. Henry Waters, Miss Annie Burr Jennings, Mrs. John Henry Hammond and Mrs. Felix Rosen.

Gaston Liebert, the French Consul General at New York, will give a reception on Sunday evening at the Plaza to members of the French High Commission.

A special performance of "Dear Brutus" will be given for the benefit of the Lafayette fund at the Empire Theatre on the evening of January 7. Among the patronesses are Mrs. Edmund L. Bayless, Mrs. Burke Roche, Mrs. Newbold Le Roy Edgar, Miss Luistia Leland, Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, Mrs. Charles E. Greenough and Mrs. C. Grant La Farge. Tickets and boxes may be obtained at the office of the fund in the Hotel Vanderbilt.

Major and Mrs. Stephen C. Millett, who had decided to pass the winter in Washington, D. C., have taken an apartment for the remainder of the season at 777 Madison avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick B. Welles and Miss Welles, who make their home at the St. Regis, have gone to Washington, D. C., to pass the holidays. They will return about the middle of next month.

A puff is a pound of pleasure," writes a soldier. He adds: "When I come home I shall try to tell **THIS SUN TOBACCO FUND** how the wonderful things I have heard the boys here say about it. **THIS SUN TOBACCO FUND** has reason to be proud."

Bugler Claude H. Mix writes a nice letter to Miss Tucker. He says: "I am a soldier and I am very glad to hear that you are helping the boys of our company and he assures you that they accepted it as a Christmas gift."

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RICHARD WAGNER'S WIDOW DIES AT 76

Endured War Privations in Germany Amid Memories of Great Composer.

HAD NO FUEL IN WINTER

Wife of Musician When She Met Famous Artist Who Won Her.

News has been received here of the death of Mme. Cosima Wagner, widow of Richard Wagner, at Bayreuth, Germany, at the age of 76 years.

The final chapter of Mme. Wagner's long and intensely romantic history was darkened by the war. For a woman of her class and her presumably great wealth she seems to have suffered physical war time privations to an astonishing degree. Christmas Day was her birthday, and a year ago on the eve of it she advertised in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* her request to her friends and acquaintances not to play her their usual visits of respect, as she had no coal nor any other means of heating the Villa Wahnfried and was obliged for warmth to keep to her bed.

Reckoning from the best authenticated birth date she would have been 77 on the Christmas of 1918. Exactly two months before Germany ran amok in 1914 her son, Siegfried Wagner, announced that his mother and he were to present the entire Wagner heritage to the German nation. It includes the villa and the famous opera house and grounds, all at Bayreuth, together with the Wagner manuscripts and relics. With the gift was to go an endowment fund for its maintenance as a permanent national memorial.

At about the same time Mme. Wagner and Siegfried Wagner were before the German courts suing to prevent Siegfried's sister, or half-sister, Frau Isolde Biedler, whose husband was the conductor of the Royal Opera at Munich, from turning over the opera to her name. The case was a trial of the question whether Isolde's father had been Wagner or Mme. Wagner's first husband, the pianist Hans von Bülow. Mme. Wagner was ready to swear that this one of her daughters was Bülow's child, but the judges wanted independent evidence and the trial was postponed. So far as the world knew the case has never been called. Frau Biedler contended that the real object of her mother and brother was to deprive her of her interest in Wagner's fortune. They countered by accusing her of having attempted extortion.

Cosima was one of the three children of the temporary union of Franz Liszt, the celebrated pianist, and the Countess d'Agouti, a French woman of more than common literary talent. She was well known by her nom de guerre, Daniel Stern. Her intimacy with Liszt began in 1835 and continued ten years. There were son and two daughters. The first and the second (who became the wife of the French statesman Emile Ollivier) are dead. The youngest, Cosima, was born in 1841.

She spent her childhood with her parents, and when they separated she remained with her father, whose activities settled chiefly in Weimar. Meanwhile a gifted young musician, Hans von Bülow by name, was moved by the performance of "Lohengrin" at Weimar under Liszt that he abandoned the law and became a pianist. He went to Zurich to throw himself at the feet of his musical deity, Richard Wagner, who was then residing in the Swiss city and writing innumerable rooms of matter to demonstrate the value of his artistic theories. Wagner procured him the post of assistant conductor in the opera, but after he had had six months' experience the great composer sent him with a letter of introduction to Liszt.

"Affinity" is found. Von Bülow became a student of the piano under Liszt and soon afterward fell in love with the daughter, Cosima. They were married in 1857. Mme. von Bülow traveled with her husband on his concert tours and engagements as conductor. But their union was not a happy one. They might, however, have continued it much longer had not Mme. von Bülow found her "affinity." The formidable task of preparing the first performance of "Tristan and Isolde" at Munich had been confided to Wagner's friend and former pupil, Hans von Bülow. He was a Bavarian capital in June, 1859, and von Bülow followed the next month. Wagner had been separated from his first wife, Minna Planer, an actress, and in Cosima von Bülow he found an affinity of mind and feeling and understanding his own "affinity" was soon formed between them.

Court intrigues drove Wagner out of Munich, where it was believed that he had too much influence with the King. Mme. von Bülow and her children went with him to the Villa Tribschen at Lucerne, where he and von Bülow had to go to Basel to teach. Although Wagner returned to Munich when the feeling against him had diminished and von Bülow with him, he was not to stay. He was to go to Bayreuth, where he was to build his famous festival house. He was to go to Bayreuth, where he was to build his famous festival house. He was to go to Bayreuth, where he was to build his famous festival house.

Unable to get revenge. The divorce of his wife by von Bülow followed in the autumn of the same year and on August 25, 1870, Richard and Cosima were married in the little Protestant church of Lucerne. The attitude of von Bülow throughout this painful part of his life was characterized best by his agonized exclamation, "Oh, if it had only been some one whom I could kill!" To slay the great genius, Wagner, was for him out of the question. He wrote the "Die Meistersinger" in honor of his wife's birthday. He assembled an orchestra of local musicians, rehearsed the new composition quite unknown to her, and surprised her with a performance of it at the Villa Tribschen. In 1872 the Wagners went to Bayreuth to live. At

H. M. MACCRACKEN DIES IN FLORIDA

Chancellor Emeritus of New York University Was 78 Years Old.

FAMOUS AS EDUCATOR

Founded First School of Pedagogy and Instituted Group Study System.

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec. 24.—Henry Mitchell MacCracken, chancellor emeritus of New York University since 1910, when he retired after presiding over that institution nineteen years, died in a hospital here to-day. His wife and older son, President John H. MacCracken of Lafayette College, were at the bedside when he died.

The funeral will be held in New York city Friday morning.

Henry M. MacCracken, under whose leadership the resources of New York University were increased tenfold, was born in Oxford, Ohio, September 28, 1840. He was graduated from Miami University in 1857 and later studied at the Kenia, Ohio, and Princeton Theological seminaries and then at the universities of Tübingen and Wittenberg.

For eight years after his return to this country he held the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Toledo. From the outset of his career he took an active interest in educational matters and wrote many pamphlets and magazine articles that won early recognition of his scholarship.

Quits Pulpit for Professorship. In 1881 he took the pulpit for the chair of philosophy at the Western University of Pennsylvania, which was later to become the University of Pittsburgh. His work at this post was successful, and in 1884 he was invited to become vice-chancellor of New York University, then a college with a student body of only ninety-one.

As vice-chancellor Dr. MacCracken was practically the chief executive of the university council, although the Rev. John Hall remained titular head of the institution until 1891, when he voluntarily retired in favor of Dr. MacCracken, who in six years had wrought radical changes in the university.

Dr. MacCracken's achievements in his twenty-five years connection with the university have been numerous. He was the first to introduce into this country where he had himself introduced in 1910.

"I might say that my achievements have been rectangular. The finished quadrangle I planned long ago. The sides of my quadrangle are the changes and improvements which I have made in the faculty and curriculum, (2) the placing of the undergraduate school on University Heights, (3) the introduction of the group system, which is not only used in New York University to-day but is gradually being universally adopted, and (4) my university innovations."

Founded School of Pedagogy. Dr. MacCracken established the first school of pedagogy in the country, if not in the world, shortly after he came to New York University. He expanded into a fully organized university, with its several parts firmly coordinated under a single corporation, the loosely connected schools of law and medicine that comprised the University College originally, and brought about the improvement of the university from Washington Square to its present location.

In 1900 Chancellor MacCracken sponsored the project of the Hall of Fame and to the end of his life continued in the management of that famous institution, which was designed architecturally by Stanford White and realized through the generosity of Mrs. Finley J. Shepard.

Elmer E. Brown, the present chancellor, paid the following tribute to his predecessor last night: "Chancellor MacCracken was a man of extraordinary vision and imagination, of great tenacity of purpose and virility in execution, and the complete transformation of New York University under his leadership was a public service that can never be forgotten."

Three years ago Dr. MacCracken saw his two sons rise together to places of high distinction in the educational world. Dr. John H. MacCracken became president of Lafayette College the same week that his brother, Dr. Henry N. MacCracken, was chosen president of Vassar College.

REV. DR. GEORGE K. MORRIS. Boston, Dec. 24.—The Rev. Dr. George Kenneth Morris, widely known as a lecturer and preacher, died yesterday at Newton, Mass. He was 81.

Painted and Carved Light Standards Being \$350. The sale of the Karl Freund collection of antique and decorative objects at the Gail's Galleries, 5 West Forty-fourth street, ended yesterday with total receipts of the sale at \$24,104.

A pair of painted and carved light standards designed by Karl Freund himself was sold to Mrs. E. L. Chapin for \$233. The standards, done in the Venetian style of the eighteenth century, are fitted for electricity and are covered by two pergamined shades, painted with birds and flowers.

Other collectors who made purchases yesterday from the Karl Freund collection were Henry E. Dixon, a veteran actor; Miss Edna Wallace Hopper, Mrs. M. Stuart, Mrs. Stanley Richter and S. F. Peabody.

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